

18. A process according to claim 11 wherein the oxidation catalyst is obtained by heating a composition containing oxides of cobalt and of at least one element A selected from the group consisting of rare earths and yttrium, to a temperature in the range 900-1200°C.

B,
(cont)

19. A process according to claim 11 wherein the oxidation catalyst comprises a primary support in the form of a mesh, gauze, pad, or monolith formed from a high temperature iron/aluminium alloy or a mesh, gauze, pad, monolith, or foam of a ceramic material, a secondary support in the form of an alkali-free alumina or lanthana wash coat on said primary support; and, supported on said secondary support, an active coating of oxides of (a) at least one element A selected from the group consisting of rare earths and yttrium, and (b) cobalt, said cobalt and element A being in such proportions that the element A to cobalt atomic ratio is in the range 0.8 to 1.2, at least some of said cobalt and element A oxides being present as a mixed oxide phase with less than 30% of the cobalt (by atoms) being present as free cobalt oxides.

REMARKS

The Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Continuation Application under 35 U.S.C. Section 120 of PCT/GB97/03193 which designated the US.

Favorable consideration and an early action on the merits of the added claims are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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